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TO : Chief, Far East/Pacific Branch

FROM : Plans and Policy Staff

SUBJECT: Utilization of Economists within ORE

DATE: 20 October 1948

1. Effective with the July 1947 reorganization of ORE the concept and the policy were firmly established that the provision for economists in the Functional Group would not relieve the Regional Branches of responsibilities for coverage of this subject within their assigned geographical areas.

2. Accordingly, it was presumed that the Regional Branches would recruit economists at the sectional level, the divisional level or include economists in the Intelligence Control Staff within each branch. The principle of flexibility was recognized in the above matter in view of the different situations which might exist in the several Regional Branches. While no firm requirement was laid on as to where such economists would be placed within the branch organization, it was understood that they would be provided wherever the Branch Chief felt they might be most effectively utilized.

3. While it is recognized that the recruitment of suitably qualified economists has presented difficult problems to the branches, it is believed that another approach might be more fruitful. The suggestion has been put forth by the Chief, Economic Group, that recruitment of economists from colleges and universities in the lower professional grades would have the following beneficial effects:

(a) it would bring the professionalists in this field to CIA who are interested in a career of intelligence;

(b) it would provide orientation and indoctrination of such individuals along regional lines and simultaneously provide for the branches professional competence in this particular field;

(c) it would facilitate the essential coordination of effort in economic reporting as between the Regional Branches and the Economic Group;

(d) it would strengthen the ORE organization on a long range basis by offering career opportunities to selected and highly recommended junior personnel.

4. In implementation of such a proposal, it is suggested that such personnel be recruited on the basis of collaborative arrangements between the branch chief concerned and the Chief, Economic Group.

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5. Once such personnel were available for duty within ORE, their orientation and training might include a tour of duty on detail to the Economic Group until such time as their "intelligence approach" to ORE economic problems was fully oriented, after which their regional indoctrination could be accomplished.

6. In order to assist the Plans and Policy Staff in assessing the validity of the above proposals it is requested that you submit your comments thereon together with a statement of your present means of meeting the requirements for economic coverage within your Branch.

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Lt. Colonel, USAF

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